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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,489	09/27/2001	Tetsuji Fuwa	110732	9315
25944	7590	02/27/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			O'CONNOR, GERALD J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/963,489	Applicant(s) Fuwa	
	Examiner O'Connor	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on February 9, 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on September 27, 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 9, 2006 has been entered.

Preliminary Remarks

2. This Office action responds to the amendment and arguments filed by applicant on February 9, 2006 in reply to the previous Office action on the merits, mailed September 9, 2005.

3. The amendment of claim 1 by applicant in the reply filed on February 9, 2006 is hereby acknowledged.

Election/Restriction

4. Claims 10-34 continue to stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed January 10, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over von Rosen et al. (US 6,493,677).

Von Rosen et al. disclose a method for selling, over a transmission network, unique information indicating products that indicate unique information, the method comprising: receiving, at a server, unique information supplied from a client device across the transmission network to the server; preparing, based on unique information, a preview image of a unique information indicating product that indicates the unique information; transmitting the prepared preview image to the client device; and displaying the preview image using a browser of the client device, wherein the displayed preview image includes text displayed in a text font for the unique information indicating product, but the method of von Rosen et al. does not explicitly include that the step of displaying includes displaying, using the browser of the client device, a plurality of preview images corresponding to different text fonts selectable for the unique information indicating product, nor do von Rosen et al. explicitly disclose an embodiment wherein the particular intended usage of the method (i.e., the particular products being sold) is directed to selling products selected from a group consisting of stamps and business cards.

However, displaying text in various fonts in order to vary the appearance of the text is certainly a well known, hence obvious, step to include in any method of customizing the appearance of graphical information containing text, and official notice to that effect is hereby taken.

Additionally, selling customized products, wherein the customized products being sold are selected from a group of products consisting of stamps and business cards, is also a well known, hence obvious, step to those of ordinary skill in the art, and official notice to that effect is hereby taken.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the method of von Rosen et al. so as to include functionality to selectably display the text in different fonts, as is well known to do, in order to allow the customer to have greater control over the appearance of the product, and to apply the method of sales of customized products to the sale of particular products selected from a group consisting of stamps and business cards, as is also well known to do, merely as a matter of design choice, since so doing of each could be readily and easily performed by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, the steps of preparing and displaying of the method of von Rosen et al. are performed both in real time response to character input performed at the client device for the unique information, as well as in response to a preview reception request sent from the client device to the server.

Regarding claims 4, 6, and 7, the step of displaying of the method of von Rosen et al. includes displaying, using the browser of the client device: a plurality of preview images

corresponding to different colors selectable for the unique information indicating product; a plurality of preview images corresponding to different sizes selectable for the unique information indicating product; and, a plurality of preview images corresponding to different types selectable for the unique information indicating product.

Regarding claim 8, the step of receiving the unique information of the method of von Rosen et al. includes receiving a customer identifier; the step of preparing the preview image includes extracting, from a customer database that stores customer identifiers in correspondence with customer information, unique information associated with the customer identifier and preparing the preview image to indicate the extracted unique information on the unique information indicating product; and the step of displaying includes displaying the extracted unique information in the preview image of the unique information display product.

Regarding claim 9, the step of preparing of the method of von Rosen et al. includes preparing a customer identifier when the server receives unique information to be displayed on the unique information indicating product, but does not receive a customer identifier; and the step of transmitting the prepared preview image to the client device includes transmitting the prepared customer identifier.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed Feb. 9, 2006 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

8. Regarding the argument that von Rosen et al. do not specifically disclose an embodiment of their invention wherein the customized product being sold is selected from a group consisting of stamps and business cards, as claim 1, as now amended, now requires, the rejection has been amended to reflect the newly added recitations, indicating therein that the added recitations are considered to be directed merely to an obvious, self-evident, albeit different, intended use of the known prior art method. Note that none of independent claims 1, 8, or 14 of the von Rosen et al. patent mention any particular product, and that von Rosen et al. specifically mention that their method can be applied to the selling of other products. See, for example, column 5, lines 50-53.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the disclosure.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication, or earlier communications, should be directed to the examiner, **Jerry O'Connor**, whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6787**, and whose facsimile number is **(571) 273-6787**.

The examiner can normally be reached weekdays from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Alexander Kalinowski, can be reached at **(571) 272-6771**.

Official replies to this Office action may be submitted by any *one* of fax, mail, or hand delivery. **Faxed replies are preferred and should be directed to (571) 273-8300.** Mailed replies should be addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450." Hand delivered replies should be delivered to the "Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314."

GJOC

February 18, 2006

 2/18/06

Gerald J. O'Connor
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 3627